April/March	Production of Cement by large plants (Mn.M.T.)	Requirement of jute bags for full compliance of mandatory order (000M.T.)	Actual offtake of jute bags (000 M.T.)	Extent of default in terms of percentage
I. CEMENT				
1993-94	54.1	340.7	9.2	97.3
1994-95	58.4	367.8	1.0	99.7
1995-96	64.2	288.9	0.3	99.9
1996-97 (upto Oct.)	39.3	176.8	0.0	100.0
II. FERTILISER (Urea)				
1993-94	13.15	118.4	80.2	32.3
1994-95	14.13	127.1	85.5	32.7
1995-96	15.79	71.1	56.2	20.9
1996-97 (Upto Oct.)	8.61	38.7	18.9	51.2

NOTES: (1) Requirement of jute bags for both cement and urea has been worked out as per manadatory percentage of use of jute bags on the basis of:—
(i) Cement Bags of 450 gms of 50 kg capacity taken into account.
(ii) Urea: 450 gms. of D.W.T. cloth per bag.

No cases could be registered against any of the defaulting units for violation of the aforesaid Act so far due mainly to fact that matter was subjudice in the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) Instructions have been sent to all urea manufacturing units informing them about the decision of the Central Government about the extension of the validity period of the Reservation Order beyond 30.6.96 from time to time with advice to comply with the said Orders on pain of penal action. In response to these letters most of them have assured to use jute bags upto specified percentage during the October 1996 quarter and thereafter as required under law. Monthly returns being received from them during the recent months reveal an encouraging improvement in the utilisation of jute bags.

All cement and urea manufacturing units in the country have been advised to submit monthly returns in prescribed format within the prescribed time schedule without fail on a regular basis with a view to monitoring closely the progress of utilisation of jute bags vis-a-vis the statutory Reservation Order.

Show-cause notices have been issued to several cement and urea companies who have been found to be continuously violating the Reservation Order. While the urea units have assured full compliance cement units have pointed out certain legal and practical problems preventing them from complying with this Order. The opinion of the Ministry of Law has been obtained by us in regard to the future course of action to be taken on the basis of the replies to the show-cause notices received from the defaulting cement units.

Role of Central Silk Board in development and production of silk

*260 SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Silk Board has been neglecting North-East region and Madhya Pradesh and favouring Karnataka in production and use of silk and textiles; and

(b) if not, details of projects in this regard in Karnataka and North-East during the last five years

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The programmes/projects for the development/expansion of production of silk in the States are primarily undertaken by the concerned State

Governments. However in order to supplement the efforts of the States, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has set-up a country-wide network of units to extend necessary R&D, extension, training & infrastructural support without confining it to any specific State. The number of such units in the States of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and North-East is 38, 19 and 47 respectively. Based on their agro-climatic and technical factors relevant to sericulture, the concerned States can avail of these support systems of the CSB which include various incentive programmes for development of sericulture such as supply of mulberry cuttings, augmentation of muga food plants, production development and marketing for eri etc. In addition, CSB from time to time takes up sericulture development projects (both for mulberry and non-mulberry) in collaboration with State(s). The major projects which have specifically benefited the expansion of sericulture both in Madhya Pradesh and the North-East during the last five years are the National Sericulture Project (NSP), Inter-State Tasar Project in Madhya Pradesh, Project for the Development of Nature Grown Tasar Cocoons in Madhya Pradesh and the Action Plan for the North-Eastern States.

PCO booths in urban and rural areas of Bihar

1789. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of PCOs allotted in Bihar in urban and rural areas separately;

(b) the details of post offices in rural areas which do not have PCOs, and target time to install PCOs in every village post offices, district-wise;

(c) whether SCs/STs are given preferential treatment in allotment of PCO booths; and

(d) if so, the number of PCO booths allotted to SCs/STs alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) 2352 urban PCOs and 18840 rural PCOs are working in Bihar as on 31.1.1997.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

(c) and (d) Sir, preference in allotment is given to SC/ST applicants by the STD PCO allotment committee. However, no separate data is maintained in this regard.

STD/ISD failures in Jammu and Kashmir

1790. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DINSHARIQ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of District Headquarters connected with STD/ISD facilities in the Jammu and Kashmir and the names of District/Tehsil Headquarters are to be linked with STD/ISD facility in the year 1997 in the State;

(b) whether it is a fact that Handwara Tehsil Headquarter in Kupwara district of Kashmir valley is cut off from the State Headquarters due to non-functional telephone exchange;

(c) whether Government consider to install a thousand line electronic telephone exchange to meet the public demand there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) As per enclosed list in the State. (See below)

(b) No, Sir. The telephone exchange is working satisfactorily. Trunk calls can be booked at Kupwara and Sopore.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The public demand justify only 256 port electronic exchange, which is planned to be commissioned during 1997-98.